

Our Beef Prospects.

General James S. Brishin, writing from Fort Keogh, says: While the manufacturing and cereal and vegetable interests of the United States have advanced fairly, the stock interests have comparatively stood still. We are today raising beef for only 40,000,000 of people, whereas we should be raising beef for 80,000,000. The reasons for this are various, chief of which is the fact of the scarcity of land in the East. Farmers have found that in heavily populated districts it does not pay them to raise cattle. The large number of acres required for grazing purposes is incompatible with small farms, and to stall-feed in large numbers is not practicable. So the Eastern farmer devotes his land to cereals and vegetables, and often buys his own beef. The distance of the plains from the East and the danger from Indians have heretofore deterred Eastern capitalists from seeking investments in stock-raising out West. Happily that difficulty is now removed. The railroads have opened up the West, and the Indians, with the exception of a few in Arizona, have been conquered. The pastoral lands of the West have never been understood or appreciated by the people of this country or the Government. The day will come when the National Treasury will derive more taxes from the grazing country than the best agricultural regions. These arid plains so long considered worthless are the natural meat-producing lands of America, and in a few years fifty million people will draw their beef from them. Where are the great grazing grounds do you ask? They are in Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Washington and Idaho.

The whole United States contains 3,603,884 square miles, of which 1,500,000 square miles is set down as grazing lands. The best ranges are on the Rio Grande, Neuces, San Antonio, Guadalupe, Colorado, Brazos, Trinity, Main Red, Washita, Canadian, Cimaron, Arkansas, Smoky Hill, Saline, Solomon Fork, Republican, North and South Platte, Loup Forks, Niobrara, White Earth, Big Cheyenne, Little Missouri, Powder River, Tongue, Rosebud, Big Horn, Wind Rivers, Yellowstone, Milk River, Musselshell, Marias, Jefferson, Missouri, Madison, Gallatin and Columbia. Of the smaller streams on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains we have the Blue Waters, Cold Water, Hill Creek, Raw Hide, Muddy, Willow, Shawnee, Slate, Sweetwater, Ash Pumpkin, Laramie, Carter, Cottonwood, Horseshoe, Elkham, Deer Creek, Medicine Bow, Rock Creek, Douglas, Lodge Pole, Big Laramie, Little Laramie, Horse Creek, Beaver, Pawnee, Crow, Lone Tree, Big Beaver, Bijou, Kiowa, Bear Creek, Big Thompson and Cache la Poudre. The grazing lands on the Platte, Powder and Tongue, amount to over twelve million acres, and are the best I know of. For at least ten years yet I look for high prices in beef. Eastern capital is so conservative it will be slow to come West and engage in stock-raising, and only Eastern capital can raise beef in sufficient quantities on the plains to reduce the price.

A good many cattle companies have been formed of late years, and so far as I know, all are doing well. We have several here in Montana, and they are able to declare an annual dividend of twenty-five per cent., besides reserving a handsome surplus for increasing the herds. It is a remarkable fact that there is more English capital at present invested in cattle-growing in the United States than American money. This year the Englishmen are reaping a rich reward for their enterprise, and are selling Americans beef at six cents per pound, live weight, which cost them less than two cents to raise. There is really no immediate occasion for alarm about a cattle famine, as cattle are not yet so scarce as to create any great stress in the meat market. But the speculators have got hold of the fact that there are too few cattle in America for the population, and they are using it to fill their pockets. We must have more cattle, more cattle-raisers and more capital with which to raise cattle.

For the next ten years I believe cattle-raising will be one of the most lucrative callings in the United States, and those who have the good fortune to be able to engage in it will rapidly grow rich. The best way is to associate capital and raise cattle in large numbers. It costs no more to take care of three thousand steers than it does one thousand, and the profits are more than three times as

large. In starting it is simply a question of money to buy cows and bulls for stock purposes. In 1840 there were 4,837,000 milch cows in the United States; in 1850 there were 6,386,094; in 1860, 8,728,863; in 1870, 10,000,000, and in 1880, 15,000,000. There cannot now be less than 15,000,000 cows in America, and these, if properly handled, will soon stock the country with sufficient beef to bring the price within the reach of the poorest man and his family. The first step is to stop killing female calves. Every female calf should be saved. The Western stock men have begun this, and already it is almost impossible for butchers to purchase calves for veal. In the West it is not so difficult to raise cattle for beef as in the East. The cattle run out all winter long, and no shelter or food is required for them except that which nature provides. Every year the stock men start the story East for the benefit of the "tenderfeet," that the stock business is overdone, and the good ranges all taken. This is done to prevent new men from going into the business. The stock men know they have a good thing, and wish to keep it as long as possible. They would like to see beef \$1 per pound, and would ask \$100 for a steer worth \$10 without the slightest compunction of conscience if they thought they could get it. If I had two or three thousand head of cattle I doubt if I would write this letter, but unfortunately, not having any herd of my own, I am only interested in getting beef as cheaply as possible from those who have herds. I hope soon to see more people and more capital in cattle raising, and beef brought to some reasonable price by reason of its abundance, and I have no hesitation in saying that associated capital engaged in beef-raising out West will pay an annual dividend of twenty-four per cent. if it is at all properly managed.

A "Rustler" in Dakota.

Bismarck has a "boomer." He is hired by the Chamber of Commerce, at a good salary, to ride upon the trains east of Fargo and talk to emigrants about the advantages of settling near the Banner City. In a word, he is a drummer for his town. When I was there he had not started upon his mission, and I found him plowing a field for oats on the only farm within sight of the town. He was a member of the Territorial Legislature, he said, and he demonstrated his capacity for the business of booming by fifteen minutes of intelligent conversation on the capacity of the soil of Burleigh County and its attractions to people who by the plow would thrive. He was evidently what they call in Dakota a "rustler." To say that a man is a rustler is the highest indorsement a Dakotan can give. It means that he is pushing, energetic, smart and successful. The word and its derivations have many shades of meaning! To rustle around is to bestir one's self in a business way. "What are you going to do in Mandan?" asked one man of another in a Bismarck saloon. "Oh, I'll rustle around and pick up something," which meant that he would look about for a good business opening. "Rustle the things off that table," means clear the table in a hurry. To do a rustling business is to carry on an active trade. The word was coined by the Montana herdsmen to describe the action of cattle brushing the snow from the roots of the bunch-grass with their noses. —Century Magazine.

"I should like to know something about this Egyptian question, dad," said a young New Haven midge at tea last evening. "What are they firing at Alexandria for—because it is the great?" "Yes, my child, I suppose so." "And who is Arabi Bey and Dervish Pasha and Ismail?" "They are all foreigners, my son. You can have no possible interest in them. Eat your supper and keep quiet." This is the way some parents have of withholding information they haven't got from their children. —New Haven Register.

At Holyoke, Mass., the other day, a number of sparrows were observed congregated together. One of their number brought a piece of twine; it was fastened around the neck of another, and the culprit knocked off a twig and suspended until he was dead. Next week the New Hampshire papers will tell of the same incident followed by one bird sitting as a Coroner and half a dozen others conducting a post mortem examination. —Boston Post.

HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

—The climbing fern is one of our prettiest plants for home culture, and of very easy culture.

—The following good advice was given by the President of an agricultural society on presenting a silver cup to a young man who had won the first prize at a plowing match: "Take this cup, my young friend," he said, "and remember always to plow deep and drink shallow."

—A French chemist reports that water made slightly salt, and to which, when boiling, bran in the proportion of one quart to every gallon has been added, has been found in a series of experiments to increase the yield of milk twenty-five per cent., if given to the cows as their ordinary drink.

—A good currant-cake is made of one cup of butter, two cups of sugar, half a cup of sweet milk, four eggs, three cups of flour, half a pound of currants carefully washed; after they have drained, sift flour over and through them; use half a grated nutmeg for flavoring. This is nice baked in small tins or in gem-pans. —Chicago Journal.

—Blooming plants in window-boxes attached to the outside of the casement, or in pots on the window-sills, will, it is said, exclude all the flies and mosquitoes from the house. If this be true, observes the Floral Cabinet, it surely behooves us all to procure window-boxes and rid ourselves of insect pests in the house. We are inclined to think, however, that wire or netting screens are a surer barrier against mosquitoes and flies.

—An Illinois farmer gives an Eastern writer for the New England Homestead the following directions for curing galled shoulders in horses, and says that it is infallible. Take old leather and burn it to a crisp; rub the ashes on the galled part; a few applications will effect a perfect cure. A new work horse put to the plow this spring received several severe galls on both shoulders. A few applications of the burnt leather made them as sound as if never injured, and no scar is now seen.

The Newer Arithmetic.

A member of the Common Council promises the appointment of public weigher to seven men; that of City Hall janitor to eight others; that of wood inspector to six more. How many promises did he make in all, and how many men thirst for his blood?

A tramp hires out to a farmer for fourteen dollars per month. He gets a boss dinner, works an hour and skips. Counting the dinner worth thirty cents how much did he make? Counting the three bites he got from the farmer's dog at twenty-five cents each how much did he lose?

A citizen who thinks it would be nice to have fresh eggs every day buys thirteen fowls at sixty cents each; lumber to the amount of \$12; hires a man for \$5 to build a park and in three months pays out \$4.20 for feed. In the twelve weeks he gets four dozen eggs and loses five hens by death and mysterious disappearance. How much have his eggs cost him per dozen?

A father pays \$200 to educate his daughter in music; \$50 to enable her to say "good day" in French; \$100 to give her lessons in painting; \$25 to learn her to dance. She then marries a man who is working on a salary of \$14 per week. How much will she save by doing her own kitchen work for five years, estimating a girl's salary at \$2.50 per week?

A boy buys a harvest apple for a cent. He gives a boy a taste for a kite worth four cents; another boy a small bite for a marble worth a penny; a third boy a big bite for a jackknife worth six cents, and then has enough left to get up a case of colic worth \$7. How much does he make by the speculation?

A servant girl works in a certain family for three weeks at \$3 per week. She breaks four goblets at twenty-eight cents each, three tea cups valued at twenty cents apiece, throws \$1.20 worth of bread and biscuit into the alley, and gets away with half a set of knives and forks costing \$3. How much is the family out of pocket?

A druggist mixes two ounces of water and three cents' worth of powder together and charges fifty-six cents for the prescription. Estimating the water at eighty cents and his time at twenty, how much does he lose? It's curious, but druggists lose money just that way. —Detroit Free Press.

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